

Item From a Florida Paper: There Was Rather a Severe Frost Last Night In Some Sections and Early Strawberries are Said To Be Damaged

EXPECT TREATY
TO BE IN EFFECT
IN TWO WEEKS

Time Required to Verify German Figures

VON LERSNER ANXIOUS

Leader of German Delegation Denies That He Has Delayed Negotiations

Paris, Dec. 26.—The final date of the repeatedly postponed exchange of ratification of the Treaty of Versailles now depends upon the speed with which the Allied missions in Germany can verify the German figures of available floating dock tonnage demanded by the Allies as compensation for the sinking of the German warships at Scapa Flow, the correspondent was informed today at the headquarters of the German peace delegation.

Baron von Lersner, head of the German representatives, said he thought this would take at least a fortnight, if not longer, in view of the difficulties of transportation in Germany and the detail involved in verifying the figures.

"A decided misunderstanding was reflected in the Paris press in the last few days regarding my projected trip to Berlin, which I subsequently abandoned," Von Lersner said. "My object was to hurry, rather than delay, the putting of the Versailles treaty into effect. From Monday night until Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock I was deprived of any communication with my government by either telegraph or telephone, in consequence of which Berlin had no knowledge of the Bantini note or of the verbal communication given on this subject by M. Dastasta secretary of the peace conference) until this morning.

"I thought that a trip to Berlin and a verbal explanation of the situation to the government would facilitate matters. The inference by the French papers that the German government wanted to delay the exchange of ratifications is absolutely unfounded. We want nothing more than effective restoration of peace.

"Peace means the repatriation of our soldiers, prisoners in France, who are obliged to spend another Christmas in captivity, although hostilities have been suspended for more than a year.

"The fact that Herr von Simon arrived in Paris last Sunday to start negotiations for putting the treaty in effect process that we had no intention to delay matters."

WEST SHAFTSBURY

Following is the program given by the Niles school Saturday evening, Dec. 20:

Scene I—Star of the East
Scene II—Hills Outside Bethlehem
Scene III—At the Manger in Bethlehem

Characters:—Children, Shepherds, Kings, Mother and Angels.
Songs:—Holy Night, Cradle Hymn, Christmas Carol, Winds Thru, the Olive Trees, Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Tableau—Before the Manger at Bethlehem
What Became of the Wise Men's Gifts

Evergreen Drill—Christmas in Sweden
Story to Light the Christ Child on His Way

What Can I Give Him
Just Before Christmas

The Real Santa Claus
Story—The Finding of the Treasure

An Impatient Waiter
The Christmas Star

Keeping Christmas
Song—Good Night Children

The program was pleasingly rendered to a large audience. Much credit is due the teacher, Miss Georgia Robinson.

NO BRIDEGROOM
FOR CHRISTMAS
DAY WEDDING

Former Navy Surgeon Was to Wed College Professor

YOUNG WOMAN HOPEFUL

Friends Believe Dr. William G. Vermilye May Have Met with Violence

Monson Mass., Dec. 26.—Dr. William Grey Vermilye of New York, a former naval surgeon, failed to appear for his wedding with Miss Ruth M. Keeney yesterday and his absence is still unexplained.

Miss Keeney, who had resigned as professor of Spanish at Bucknell university to wed the physician, is reported to be ill but is bearing up in the belief that her fiancé would yet appear.

One theory advanced was that the physician had met with violence as he had been actively engaged in the federal service rounding up radicals since his discharge from the navy.

FIREMEN'S FUND GROWS

Contributions Have Now Reached a Total of \$575

Since the destruction by fire of the Bennington garage and the Cottage Hotel last Saturday morning the Bennington fire department has been the recipient of checks amounting to \$575 and contributed by owners of property saved from destruction through the efforts of the department and former firemen.

Individual members of the fire department have expressed their appreciation of the contributions, but inasmuch as the annual department meeting takes place early next month it has been deemed best to defer official action until that time. The following letters are self explanatory:

December 24, 1919.

Mr. Wm. Sears,
Chief Bennington Fire Department,
Village.

Friend William:—Enclosed I hand you my check for \$200.00 payable to the Treasurer of the Bennington Fire Department, in appreciation of the efficient services rendered on the morning of the 20th by that division of the department handling the line of hose on the side of the fire adjacent to my property, which resulted in such a relatively small loss compared with what it might have been had not the fire been held in check and confined to the one story laundry building.

As you may know I have always been very much interested in the Fire Department and its equipment, and from my observations at this fire it would seem to me that there is much equipment lacking which if provided by the Village, would make possible very much more efficient work on the part of the Department. Of course the size of the fire Saturday morning was unusual and the equipment of the Department was taxed to the utmost. However there may be a repetition of the fire at some future time and the Department should be prepared in this respect to cope with it.

If I can at any time render assistance to increase the efficiency and usefulness of the Fire Department, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Very truly yours,
Geo. M. Hawks.

Bennington, Vt., Dec. 24, 1919.

Mr. Wm. F. Sears,
My Dear Mr. Sears:

On behalf of Mr. Cantor and myself I wish to thank you and the brave boys who fought that terrible fire, and saved our property from utter destruction.

Enclosed please find check for \$25.00 in appreciation of their splendid work.

Very sincerely yours,
Nathan S. Satter.

Bennington Vt.
Dec. 25, 1919.

Chief Wm. E. Sears,
Bennington Fire Dept.,
Bennington, Vt.

Dear Sir:—We wish to express our thanks to you and all others who fought the fire that destroyed the Cottage Hotel and Bennington Garage last Saturday morning. We fully realize the difficulties under which the firemen were compelled to work and greatly appreciate their fine efforts in our behalf.

We regret, however, that our loss makes it impossible for us to express our gratitude in a substantial way.

Very truly yours,
Mrs. Anna C. Leahy and family.

Piles Cured in 8 to 14 Days

Druggists refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Stools Irritated, Swollen and Itchy. You can get restful sleep after the first application. Price 60c.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of North Bennington, Vt., will be held at their banking-house on Tuesday, the sixth day of January, 1920, at ten o'clock A. M. for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year and for any other proper and necessary business.

North Bennington, Vt.
Dec. 26, 1919.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTOR OIL

JUDGE STAFFORD'S ADDRESS

Prominent Vermont Open Sunday Evening Forum Series.

Editor of the Banner:

There are a number of people in Bennington, who look forward with particular pleasure to the opportunity of hearing Judge Stafford on Sunday night. They know him personally or they have listened to him on some public occasion, and are aware of the charm of the man and of his distinction as a speaker. But because the community as a whole is not acquainted with Wendell Phillips Stafford I may be permitted this comment.

He is one of Vermont's most distinguished men. A jurist, he is also an orator in the fine, true sense of that sometimes misused term. His speaking has reality and strength as well as grace; there is no affectation about it, it grips you by its sincerity and natural dynamic.

That Judge Stafford should come to Bennington at this time is a compliment to our community. He knows us, for he has spent some of his summers here, and loves ardently all this hill and valley region. I have the impression that some of the exquisite verse he has written has had its inspiration in this setting of nature.

He is a very busy man at Washington, and this visit is the only one he is able to make to Vermont before another summer.

It was the writer's good fortune to fall in with Judge Stafford at the Dartmouth Anniversary in October, and this engagement is the result of that conversation and the invitation given then.

I may say that on the occasion mentioned the address of Judge Stafford side by side with some remarkable addresses by other eminent men was generally regarded as the finest of all.

May I urge our citizens to hear him Sunday night. His subject, "Some Necessary Limitations on the Right to Combine," does not perhaps call for the finished oratory of an academic occasion, but it will be handled in a luminous and forceful fashion. We may not all agree with all he will say, but he is sure to come to close quarters with and to get at the basic facts of one of the biggest and most vital questions before the country.

George S. Mills.

Dec. 25.

WILL NOT RAISE PAY

State House Clerks' Petition Denied by Board of Control.

Montpelier, Dec. 26.—"What will we do about it," said a clerk in the State House when it was learned that the Board of Control had not approved some of the clerks' requests for increases in pay. "I shall get through," said one. "I am worth more salary than I am getting."

It appears that the feeling resulted from the fact becoming known that in one department increases had occurred but a part of the matter was not explained and it was because the commissioner of industries clerks did not get increases July 1 owing to the fact that the commissioner was new on the job and did not know the ropes of these changes so that the Board of Control recently voted to grant increases to these clerks and date them from July 1.

As a preliminary to the boys game the Bennington girls team played a team composed of the alumni. The alumni team was made up almost entirely of the players who formed the undefeated girls team of a few years ago. The game was close and the high school girls contested over point secured by the alumni. Catherine Morrissey starred for the girls team scoring all of the Bennington points. For the alumni Margaret Nash and Julia Brazell starred. Valda Lyons played a very fast floor game for the high school and through her floor work the high school forwards were able to score the points. The alumni won by a score of 17 to 13.

The lineup and score:

B. H. S.

F. G. F. P. Total

Harwood, H., 10 0 0 21

MacLaren, H., 0 0 0 0

Mallory, C., 7 0 0 14

Fraserburgh, R., 1 0 0 2

Ransom, J., 1 0 0 2

Griffin, Cushman

Alumni

F. G. F. P. Total

Harwood, H., 3 0 0 6

Burt, R., 2 0 0 4

Jennery, C., 6 0 0 12

Chase, C., 2 0 0 4

Hutton, G.

As a preliminary to the boys game the Bennington girls team played a team composed of the alumni. The alumni team was made up almost entirely of the players who formed the undefeated girls team of a few years ago. The game was close and the high school girls contested over point secured by the alumni. Catherine Morrissey starred for the girls team scoring all of the Bennington points. For the alumni Margaret Nash and Julia Brazell starred. Valda Lyons played a very fast floor game for the high school and through her floor work the high school forwards were able to score the points. The alumni won by a score of 17 to 13.

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